

REMARKS

Claims 4, 7 and 13 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-12, 14 and 15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 4, 7 and 13 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

A substitute specification is enclosed. Also enclosed is a marked-up copy of the specification. The substitute specification includes all the changes shown in the marked-up copy. No new matter is entered.

Enclosed is a PTO-1449 including the correct reference number (WO 00/47808) for the WIPO publication to Neumann. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the reference, sign and date the PTO-1449 and include a copy with the next Office Action, per MPEP § 609.

Claims 2 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph. Claim 15 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering moot its rejection. With respect to claim 2, as incorporated into claim 1 (along with claims 3 and 4), the term “main” has been changed to “major” to provide proper antecedent basis. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 4, 7 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, which amendments have been made.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims, including the claims withdrawn from consideration, are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments:

Substitute Specification

Marked-Up Specification

PTO-1449